

# OPEN AND SHUT?

Thursday, January 12, 2012

## ITHAKA becomes the second AAP member to disavow the Research Works Act

Yesterday I reported that MIT Press has distanced itself from the Research Works Act (RWA). The RWA is a new bill introduced into the House of Representatives at the end of last year that would reverse the US National Institutes of Health Public Access Policy requiring taxpayer-funded research to be made freely accessible online. It would also prevent other federal agencies from imposing similar requirements on their funded researchers.

The RWA is backed by the Association of American Publishers (AAP) and its Professional and Scholarly Division (PSP), which last December published a press release describing the bill as, "significant legislation that will help reinforce America's leadership in scholarly and scientific publishing in the public interest and in the critical peer-review system that safeguards the quality of such research."



If passed, however, the bill would be a major setback for the Open Access movement. As I noted yesterday, AAP has therefore been widely criticised for its support of the RWA, and some in the research community have called on members of the association to disavow both the bill and AAP's support for it. There have also been calls for AAP members to resign in protest.

Today I received an email from ITHAKA, the non-profit organisation dedicated to helping the academic community take full advantage of information and networking technologies, and which includes JSTOR, the online service providing access to archived academic journals,

and Portico, the electronic-archiving Initiative.

The email was in response to an enquiry I made a few days ago asking ITHAKA to comment on the RWA, and AAP's support for it. It contained the following statement:

"A core principle of our organisation is to provide the broadest possible access to scholarly works in ways that are sustainable and account for their long term preservation. We have no intention of endorsing RWA. We also have no intention of leaving the AAP. We do not agree with them on every issue, but we value our membership, as we do our participation in a number of library and scholarly associations."

Commenting on the news, Open Access advocate Peter Suber said, "I applaud ITHAKA for distancing itself from the harmful Research Works Act. The AAP acts in the name of its members when it lobbies for the RWA, in effect recruiting all its members as allies in a cause that not all of them support. Through their public statements, MIT Press and ITHAKA have refused to lend their weight to a policy they do not endorse."

Posted by Richard Poynder at 21:24



Labels: ITHAKA, Mandates, MIT Press, Open Access, Peter Suber, Scholarly Publishing

### 1 comment:

Gary F. Daught said...

Richard,

I was also delighted today to have received a reply from my inquiry to the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) regarding their stance on the RWA relative to their membership in the AAP. Their reply:

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- About Richard Poynder
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- The State of Open Access
- The Basement Interviews
- Open Access Interviews
- Essays on Open Access
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Open Access: "Information wants to be free?" (A print version of this eBook is available here ) Earlier this year I was invited to discuss with Georgia Institute of Technology librarians...



P2P: The very core of the world to come In the first part of this interview Michel

Bauwens, the creator of The Foundation for P2P

### Tweets by @RickyPo

**Richard Poynder**  
@RickyPo

Open access—is it the way forward?  
[link.springer.com/article/10.100...](http://link.springer.com/article/10.100...)

I certainly do not want to decry the OA model of publishing, if the underlying intent is worthy and totally scientific. As warranted by Dom Mitchell, Operations Manager of Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), in an online post on 2 Oct, 2020, almost 63% of 15,259 journals indexed in DOAJ do not levy any article processing charge (APC). However, if economic expediency takes charge, which unfortunately seems to have done lately, with the sudden pandemic of 'Predatory journals', this model seems to be doing more harm than good to the scientific community, and even to the society at large. Here, the role of so-

2h

**Richard Poynder**  
@RickyPo

Academic freedom has 'robust impact' on democracy in Africa  
[universityworldnews.com/post.php?story...](http://universityworldnews.com/post.php?story...)

Acade...

The State of  
Open Access  
Predatory publishing  
Institutional Repositories  
Green OA Gold  
OA Self-archiving  
Copyright  
Basement Interviews  
OA Interviews

**OA Essays Open**  
**Access in Serbia**  
**Open Access in**  
**India** **Open Access in**  
**Egypt** **ScienceDirect**  
**Open Access**  
**in California**  
**OA in Latin**  
**America** **Open**  
**Access in the Humanities**  
**MDPI Preprints Selecting**  
**Reviewers** **Global**  
**Research**  
**Council** **OA Big**  
**Deal** **Open**  
**Notebook** **Science**  
**Elsevier** **Gates**  
**Foundation** **OA in**  
**South Africa** **OA in**  
**France** **SSRN** **OA &**  
**the Humanities**  
**Timothy Gowers** **Harold**  
**Varmus** **Peter**  
**Suber** **OA in Poland**  
**OA Embargoes**  
**Big Deal** **Finch**  
**Report** **Jeffrey Beall**  
**ALPSP** **OA**  
**Mandates** **PLOS**  
**Peer Review**  
**Springer** **BioMed**  
**Central** **Free**  
**Software** **Digital**  
**Preservation** **Dove**  
**Medical** **OA in Russia**  
**Radical** **OA** **Almost OA**  
**HEFCE** **Frontiers**

"Thank you very much for your message. It is embarrassing to admit, but none of us realized that CLIR had continued its membership in AAP. We are opposed to the Research Works Act, the goals of which are, indeed, fundamentally in conflict with CLIR's values, vision, and mission. Today we will draft a letter of withdrawal from AAP."

January 13, 2012 12:01 pm 

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Alternatives , explained why he believes the var...



**PLOS CEO**  
**Alison Mudditt**  
discusses new  
OA agreement  
with the  
University of

**California**

The Public Library of Science ( PLOS ) and the University of California ( UC ) have today announced a two-year agreement designed to make...



**The Open**  
**Access**  
**Interviews:**  
**Publisher MDPI**  
Headquartered  
in Basel,

Switzerland, the Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute, or more usually MDPI , is an open access publisher...



**The OA**  
**Interviews:**  
**Taylor &**  
**Francis'**  
**Deborah Kahn**  
discusses **Dove**

**Medical Press**

Please note the postscript to this interview here The open-access publisher Dove Medical Press has a controversial past and I have writ...



**Copyright: the**  
**immoveable**  
**barrier that**  
**open access**  
**advocates**  
**underestimated**

In calling for research papers to be made freely available open access advocates promised that doing so would lead to a simpler, less cos...



**The Open**  
**Access**  
**Interviews:**  
**OMICS**  
**Publishing**  
**Group's Srinu**

**Babu Gedela**

\*\*\*Update: On August 26th 2016, the US government (Federal Trade Commission) announced that it has charged OMICS with making false claims, ...



**Robin Osborne**  
on the state of  
**Open Access:**  
**Where are we,**  
**what still needs**  
**to be done?**

One of a series exploring the current state of Open Access ( OA ), the Q&A below is with Robin Osborne , Professor of Ancient History a...



**Community**  
**Action**  
**Publishing:**  
**Broadening the**  
**Pool**

We are today seeing growing dissatisfaction with the pay-to-publish model for open access. As this requires authors (or their funders or ins...



Open Access:  
What should  
the priorities be  
today?

This year marks  
the 15<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary of the Budapest  
Open Access Initiative  
(BOAI), the meeting that led  
to the launch of the open  
acce...

## Blog Archive

2020 (4)

2019 (7)

2018 (20)

2017 (18)

2016 (14)

2015 (18)

2014 (13)

2013 (32)

2012 (43)

December (1)

November (1)

October (2)

September (2)

July (6)

June (4)

May (2)

April (2)

March (3)

February (7)

January (13)

Elsevier needs  
to get out  
more

The OA  
interviews:  
Francis  
Jayakanth of  
India's Na...

The Research  
Works Act:  
Two more  
dissenters

Springer  
Statement on  
the US  
Research  
Works Act

BioMed Central  
opposes  
Research  
Works Act

Library of  
Congress  
neutral on the  
Research  
Works Act

Nature  
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Group and  
Digital  
Science do  
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Research Works  
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Cambridge  
University  
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California  
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from AAP o...

Can AAP  
Members stay  
neutral in the  
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Pennsylvania  
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University  
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No to Res...

ITHAKA  
becomes the  
second AAP  
member to  
disavow th...

MIT Press  
distances  
itself from  
Research  
Works Act

2011 (22)

2010 (20)

2009 (22)

2008 (14)

2007 (9)

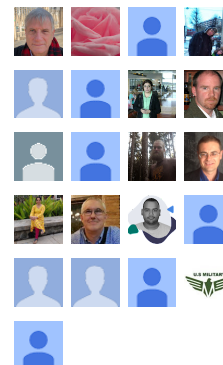
2006 (27)

2005 (31)

2004 (2)

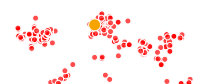
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